



Draft participation strategies – updated 8/21/19

Goal: Increase outdoor participation, especially among youth and traditionally underserved communities

Elevate partner organizations in Oregon leading this work

1. Consider technical changes to SB 588 “Outdoor Therapy Grant Program” and SB 589 “Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant Program” from 2019 to address any concerns and identify funding mechanisms. Task force could advance these as formal recommendations.
2. Review, and as needed, revise all existing state outdoor recreation grant programs to prioritize projects or investments that will move us toward the goal of increasing participation among youth and traditionally underserved communities. Utilize SCORP data and Parkland mapping database to inform decisions on recreation demographics, trends, and demands.
3. Simplify the process by which volunteers who lead community outdoor recreation programs, work in parks, or do stewardship work are rewarded with complimentary passes and other incentives for their civic engagement.
4. Provide certain campsites, group facilities, and other state managed recreation venues available for free or on a priority basis to community organizations serving youth and traditionally underserved communities. Pursue corporate sponsorship, or minor fee changes needed to make this effort revenue-neutral across the state park system.
5. Create a suite of complimentary grant programs managed to the four pillars of the Confluence Accords – conservation and stewardship, education and workforce training, economic development, public health and wellness.
 - a. Alternately, focus on - Equity, OutdoorsRx, Oregon Trail Fund
6. Engage 4H, FFA, Rodeo – support and engage programs like 4H’s healthy living: FFA and Rodeo as ways of engaging youth in connection to the increasingly diverse and greater outdoor community. This ensures that outdoor recreation supports and engages youth working and playing in the outdoors. These outdoor activities improve health and connect people to the land in important ways.

Parks to people + people to parks



7. Oregon should adopt a formal statewide goal that a local park, trail or natural open space area is available within a 10-minute walk of all residents. The state can also consider setting official standards for open space or park-area per resident, as some individual communities have already done and adopt that into Oregon's land use planning statutes. A shared policy would serve to prioritize funding to areas without access to a quality destination, resulting in increased investments in underserved communities. The SCORP estimates that XX% of Oregonians are already within a 10-minute walk, so this poses an achievable goal, requiring state agencies to work together with common priorities. When the SCORP is again updated in 2024, progress towards the goal of 100% access will be measured. This project would also advance local and statewide Vision Zero efforts by considering safe pathways for people walking and biking to these outdoor destinations.
8. Task Force to develop and recommend additional funding for non-motorized trail development and major rehabilitation with Urban Growth Boundaries and ongoing non-motorized trail maintenance and major rehabilitation in dispersed settings outside UGBs (SCORP pg. 200).
9. Expand free pass programs, such as the OSU Outdoor School / OPRD Get Out There Together Program or consider making entry to all state parks free for youth aged 17 and under.
 - a. At a minimum, make reciprocal arrangement to Every Kid Outdoors pass which provides 4th graders a free pass for federal public lands.
10. Evaluate all public parks/lands/facilities for accessibility, prioritize needs, and launch (and fund) plan to upgrade facilities to ensure equitable access for all. Better publicize current accessibility of sites and progress of upgrades.
11. Continue funding for statewide Outdoor School Program.
12. Develop plan and target dates for gender neutral restrooms in state facilities (and provide guidelines for local agencies).
13. Recommendations to improve transportation to outdoor recreation:
 - a. Recreation based "Uber" - Create/support a network of transportation specifically geared to help people access trails/lakes/etc. Creation of a specific app, similar to uber, where drivers/providers had enough familiarity with the outdoor venues in the region to get people to them would remove a huge obstacle detracting people from exploring rural communities.
 - b. Develop case studies of existing and emerging programs that provide public transportation to trailheads and other recreation sites. These



could serve as tools, ideally with additional technical support available, for local communities looking to build out their own programs or potential small business opportunities.

Diversify leadership and decision-making

14. State agencies should establish internal policies to ensure that recipients of funding (such as local or tribal governments, and non-profit organizations) are taking action to improve engagement with and access by diverse populations.
15. Identify and designate public liaisons of diverse backgrounds to facilitate input from diverse populations during planning and decision-making processes related to management of outdoor recreation in Oregon.
16. Recommend that the Governor establish a standard for inclusion of people of diverse backgrounds and abilities on agency advisory or stakeholder committees that relate to public land and water management, rule making, research and grant-making. Agencies will apply this new standard making nominations and recommendations.
17. Fund strategic plan and timeline for translation of state outdoor recreation information, such as trail head signs, publications, safety information, guides and websites.
18. Require robust EDI training program for state outdoor recreation professionals.
19. Apply learnings from OPRD's current Engage-Relate-Adapt internal work, and similar efforts in Task Force agencies, to increase support for Employee Resource Groups for marginalized communities.
20. Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Outdoors - by empowering a committee dedicated to DEI, the Oregon Office of Outdoor Recreation will create and adopt policies based on a foundation of diversity and inclusion. The Committee would be responsible for a broad developing a broad agenda, including: 1) an equity grant program; 2) strategies for more paid internships/fellowships in conservation and recreation; 3) marketing and awareness campaign of diversity in outdoor recreation; and 4) storytelling efforts that share the historical background of outdoor spaces.

Modernize information

21. Explore policy change necessary to make outdoor preschools (existing or new) eligible participants in Oregon Prekindergarten or Preschool Promise programs



in the state to give low-income families more choices. Are curriculum, insurance, permits or licensure other issues preventing expansion of these offerings?

22. Develop and publish a State of Oregon Universal Design Best Practice Guide; Invest in ADA audit of state park facilities, with technical assistance or matching grants available for local parks providers to do similar work, and make improvements. American Society of Landscape Architects 2019 Universal Design Guide, and its associated principles, could serve this purpose with potential adaptation to Oregon.
23. Add Oregon parks to the national ParksRx database to make it simpler for health care providers to prescribe time outdoors, and allow Oregonians to find parks close to where they live. Utilize Parkland mapping database as starting point, and health benefits data in SCORP to raise profile of benefits of time spent outdoors.
24. Oregon Outdoor Pass: Combine Oregon State Parks Pass, Sno-Park Pass, ODFW Parking Permit into a single annual pass and pursue agreement with USFS to include the NW Forest Pass as well. This will require collaboration amongst agencies to set pricing, administration and revenue sharing that would require legislation to move. An interagency workgroup, such as the Oregon Outdoor Council proposed elsewhere in this document could be an appropriate group to carry out initial analysis.
25. Develop an online directory of available state recreation grants; partner with federal agencies and other state offices to create a similar site with federal opportunities. Staff at OPRD available to provide technical assistance to communities and non-profit organizations pursuing funding
26. Develop plan with local tribes for land acknowledgement and history at all public parks, lands, facilities (signage and history) and establish task force to evaluate existing information for bias or erasure; provide guidelines for local agencies to do similar work.
27. Develop statewide framework and funding for K-12 Outdoor education learning (build upon Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan, Oregon Natural Resources Education Program, Academic Standards, and Outdoor School).